

Worcester May 12 1887

Dear Friend May

Mrs. Howland was very glad to get your note yesterday afternoon assuring us that you arrived safely home and were getting rested from your exertion. We were so glad that you could read Johnson's paper with so much strength and vigor and make its points so emphatic.

We were sorry that the meeting was so small, but many things conspired to produce that result. Some I know were kept away by the warm weather, fearing the Hall would be too small and so crowded as to be uncomfortable in such a night. Other things were on the same corner that kept many away.

I enclose a scrap cut from
today's "Telegram," not a very
creditable paper any way.
It gives a photograph of Hon.
Eli Thayer, true to life, drawn
by himself. Its indecent
scrutiny places him beneath
the notice of reputable people.
As a blackguard and liar
he is invulnerable, and
come then out to any ordinary
contestant. And like the
skunk that old Dr. Beecher
threw his Bible at, his opponents
are likely to get the worst of it.
I should not have cared
to notice his first paper at
all, only that it was read
before our society, and
most of all they published
it, thus giving it a kind
of endorsement. I was

glad that you criticized it so
pointedly in your letter of
acceptance,

I have sent Johnson a copy
of this vile rejoinder, saying
much the same I have to you.
Also I wrote him about the
publication of his paper in
the Sunday Herald, I carried
the copy from H. Garrison to
the Herald Editor yesterday,
returning your opening note,

Truly

Joseph A. Howland

Thayer's illustration of the man
with his head cut off seems
peculiarly applicable to his case.
He seems entirely dissatisfied
with the judgment of contemporary
history, and is hustling
round and trying to force

the most of history to raise
him to a higher niche
than it has hitherto assigned
him, but it will do no
good, he must stand in
history just where the facts
place him, and all his
attempts to galvanize into life
at this late day his dead
reputation will be of no avail.